

Child and Family Services Update

March 17, 2003

Check Out This Book! And What's An NRC?

By Midge Delavan

A 1999 book called Solution-Based Casework: an introduction to clinical and case management skills in casework practice by Dana N. Christensen, Jeffrey Todahl, and William C. Barrett just arrived from Kentucky. One of the authors is at the University of Louisville, the Kent School of Social Work. The approach in the book is a combination of solution-focused, family development, and relapse prevention.

The University of Louisville has a new National Resource Center (NRC) for Training Evaluation. One of their staff persons called Child and Family Services to ask about our solution-focused work. The Kentucky model appears to emphasize solution-focused work as the center of the model in contrast to our Utah Practice Model which is centered on Child and Family Teaming and uses solution-focused work as a method of working with the family and team.

Kentucky and Utah have a lot in common in our approach to data and practice. Kentucky could teach us about working with universities and informing our administration and practice in conjunction with research and evaluation. What would you most like them to know about our practice? (What are you proud of in what we do as a state?)

This new NRC is one of seven that provide us with 10 days of consultation each year. The National Child Welfare Resource Center for Organizational Improvement provided us with technical assistance last week. Beth Frizzell was in Salt Lake City to talk to the stakeholder group of community partners who are assisting us with the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). Linda Wininger brought Beth here to talk about the plan that we will be creating after our federal review is completed in May.

The NRC for Family-Centered Practice sent two workshop leaders to our Child Welfare Institute last year. Do you have a need for technical assistance or consultation in your region? Talk to your training team about using an NRC resource. In the next Update, we will give you all the web addresses for the NRC's.